



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS COMMAND  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

IN REPLY REFER TO:

5720

SJA

3 Apr 19

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: 70342-75567294@REQUESTS.MUCKROCK.COM  
MS. MACKENZIE FARKUS  
MUCKROCK NEWS DEPT MR 70342  
411A HIGHLAND AVE  
SOMERVILLE, MA 02144

Dear Ms. Farkus:

SUBJECT: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST: FILE NUMBER  
DON-USMC-2019-004580

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated 8 March 2019, which was forwarded to this office on 8 March 2019. Your request seeks materials from 2016 onward related to the water contamination at Camp Lejeune and its subsequent health effects on those currently or formerly stationed at Camp Lejeune. Your request was controlled under file number DON-USMC-2019-004580.

In order to conduct a search that is reasonably calculated to identify responsive records we would need more details and specificity about what records you are actually requesting. As written, portions of your request are vague and overly broad. Hence, we cannot consider those portions 'perfected' at this time. The portion of your request seeking "correspondences containing the keywords 'illness,' 'water contamination,' and 'disability benefits,'" failed to reasonably describe the record(s) you are seeking. In general, a record is reasonably described when the description contains sufficient file-related information (type of document, title, subject area, date of creation, originator, etc.); or the request contains enough event-related information (date and circumstances surrounding the event the record covers) to permit the conduct of an organized, non-random search. For this portion of your request, please describe the record(s) you are seeking with sufficient particularity to enable a reasonable non-random search.

For the portion of your request seeking "levels of current water contamination at Camp Lejeune" from 2016 onward, we would note that CCRs are required by the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and are designed to provide details about where drinking water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to standards set by regulatory agencies. All completed CCRs (from 2011 to the present) are publically available and can be found online at: <https://www.lejeune.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/Environmental-Mgmt/Annual-Reports/>. Camp Lejeune's CCR for 2018 has yet to be completed, and is therefore a pre-decisional document that is not releasable at this time under FOIA exemption b(5).

For information concerning the current status of groundwater remediation at Camp Lejeune, please visit the Navy's public Environmental Restoration (ER) website for Camp Lejeune at: <http://go.usa.go/Dy5T>. Here you can access the administrative record for Camp Lejeune's ER Program, including the Site Management Plan, which is updated annually and provides a summary of all ER sites aboard the installation (shortcut under the "Site Descriptions" tab). Camp Lejeune also provides information on the ER program via the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), which meets quarterly and is open to all members of the community. Details on the RAB, including upcoming meetings and past meeting minutes, can be found online at: <https://www.lejeune.marines.mil/Offices-Staff/Environmental-Mgmt/Restoration-Advisory-Board/>.

For the portion of your request seeking "brochures/pamphlets/booklets given to those impacted by Camp Lejeune's water contamination" we have provided a copy of the welcome packet we provide former Camp Lejeune residents and/or workers who register with the Marine Corps via our Camp Lejeune Historic Drinking Water (CLHDW) website and call center. The welcome packet includes an official notification letter, a tri-fold brochure, as well as fact sheets and summary materials for health studies completed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and a summary of the findings of the 2009 National Academies of Science (NAS), National Research Council (NRC) report. Please access the CLHDW website at [www.marines.mil/clwater](http://www.marines.mil/clwater) for more information.

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In view of the above, you may consider this to be an adverse determination that may be appealed to the Department of the Navy, Office of the General Counsel (ATTN: FOIA APPEALS), 1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 5A532, Washington, DC 20350-1000. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter and should include a copy of your initial request, a copy of this letter, and a statement indicating why you believe it should be granted. We recommend that your appeal and its envelope both bear the notation "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

You also have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Marine Corps FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Sally Hughes, at [hqmcfoia@usmc.mil](mailto:hqmcfoia@usmc.mil) or (703) 614-4008, and/or the Department of the Navy FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Christopher Julka, at [Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil) or (703) 697-0031. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services for assistance and/or dispute resolution at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) or 1-877-684-6448. For more information online about services provided by OGIS, please visit their website at <https://ogis.archives.gov>.

Questions concerning this action should be directed to Mr. Ryan Mitchell, MCICOM FOIA Coordinator at (571) 256-2842 or [ryan.s.mitchell@usmc.mil](mailto:ryan.s.mitchell@usmc.mil). Please reference the file number in the subject line above.

Sincerely,

*Ryan S. Mitchell*  
R. S. MITCHELL  
Adjutant